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Menomonee Falls, WI 53052

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

It pleases me that the U.S. government and Microsoft have finally reached a tentative settlement agreement in their antitrust lawsuit. It is my hope that this ordeal will be resolved once and for all at the conclusion of the sixty-day public comment period.

If my memory serves me correctly, the settlement is fair. In fact, Microsoft capitulated to terms that go beyond the scope of the products and procedures at issue in the lawsuit. Most significant is Microsoft's agreeing to divulge its patented code for the Windows operating system to its competitors. I understand this has never been done before in an antitrust settlement. While only one of many measures in the settlement, it will have a hugely positive effect on increasing competition.

It is my hope that the settlement is finalized as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "No Oliver", written in a cursive style.

Nicholas Oliver
Systems Analyst

CC: Representative James Sensenbrenner